

suturæ bene determinatæ; scutellum brevi-conicum: metathorax transversus, mediocris: petiolus brevissimus: abdomen fusiforme, thorace angustius et multo longius, supra planum, subtus carinatum, apice acuminatum: pedes graciles: alæ mediocres; nervus ulnaris humerali longior, radialis vix ullus, cubitalis sat longus.

Sp. 58. *Cirr. Anticlea, Fem. Viridis, cyaneo- et æneo-varius, abdomen cupreum, antennæ nigræ aut piceæ, pedes picei aut fulvo-fusci, femora viridia, tarsi flavi, alæ limpidæ.*

Viridi-cyaneus: oculi et ocelli rufi: antennæ nigro-piceæ; articuli 1^{us} et 2^{us} virides, hic apice fulvus: abdomen cyaneum; discus cupreus: pedes virides; trochanteres picei; genua flava; tibiæ fuscae, apice flavæ; tarsi pallide fusci, basi flavi; propedum tibiæ et tarsi fulva; alæ limpidæ; squamulæ piceæ; nervi fulvi, basi flavi; metalis nervi flavi. (Corp. long. lin. $\frac{3}{4}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$; alar. lin. 1—1 $\frac{1}{4}$.)

Var. β.—Viridi-æneus: antennæ nigræ; articulus 1^{us} fulvus, apice piceus: abdomen cupreum, basi cyaneo-viride: pedes fulvi; coxæ virides; femora viridia; meso- et metatarsi flavi, apice fusci; protarsi apice fusci; proalis nervi fusci.

Var. γ.—Nigro-viridis; antennæ piceæ; articulus 1^{us} niger, 2^{us} apice fulvus: abdomen nigro-cupreum: pedes nigro-virides; trochanteres fulvi; genua fulva; tibiæ piceæ, apice fulvæ; tarsi flavi, basi fulvi; protarsi fusci.

July; near London, Isle of Wight.

Mas. Corpus sublineare, nitens, scitissime squameum, parce hirtum: caput transversum, breve, convexum, juxta thoraci latum: antennæ filiformes, hirtæ, corporis longitudine; articulus 1^{us} gracilis, sublinearis; 2^{us} longicyathiformis; 3^{us} brevis; 4^{us}, 5^{us} et 6^{us} subæquales, latitudine longiores; clava longifusiformis, acuminata, articulo 6^o duplo longior: thorax ovatus, convexus: prothorax brevissimus, supra vix conspicuus: mesothoracis scutum latitudine longius; parapsidum suturæ bene determinatæ; scutellum brevi-conicum: metathorax transversus, mediocris: petiolus brevissimus: abdomen sublineare, planum, thoracē angustius, non brevius: pedes graciles: proalæ latæ; nervus ulnaris humerali longior, radialis vix ullus, cubitalis sat longus.

Fem. Antennæ subclavatæ, corporis dimidio longiores; articulus 4^{us} 3^o brevior; 5^{us} adhuc brevior; clava fusiformis, acuminata, articulo 5^o duplo longior: abdomen longiovatum, thorace longius, vix latius, supra planum, subtus carinatum, apice acuminatum.

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XXII.—*Note on the Effects of the Hurricane of January 7, 1839, in Ireland, on some Birds, Fishes, &c.* By WILLIAM THOMPSON, Esq.

I SHALL here record the very few particulars on this subject that have as yet become known to me. As may be conjectured, stormy

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Var. β.—Viridi-æneus: antennæ nigræ; articulus 1^{us} fulvus, apice piceus: abdomen cupreum, basi cyaneo-viride: pedes fulvi; coxæ virides; femora viridia; meso- et metatarsi flavi, apice fusci; protarsi apice fusci; proalis nervi fusci.

Var. γ.—Nigro-viridis; antennæ piceæ; articulus 1^{us} niger, 2^{us} apice fulvus: abdomen nigro-cupreum: pedes nigro-virides; trochanteres fulvi; genua fulva; tibiæ piceæ, apice fulvæ; tarsi flavi, basi fulvi; protarsi fusci.

July; near London, Isle of Wight.

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Fem. Antennæ subclavatæ, corporis dimidio longiores; articulus 4^{us} 3^o brevior; 5^{us} adhuc brevior; clava fusiformis, acuminata, articulo 5^o duplo longior: abdomen longiovatum, thorace longius, vix latius, supra planum, subtus carinatum, apice acuminatum.

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Var. γ.—Nigro-viridis; antennæ piceæ; articulus 1^{us} niger, 2^{us} apice fulvus: abdomen nigro-cupreum: pedes nigro-virides; trochanteres fulvi; genua fulva; tibiæ piceæ, apice fulvæ; tarsi flavi, basi fulvi; protarsi fusci.

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Var. β.—Viridi-æneus: antennæ nigræ; articulus 1^{us} fulvus, apice piceus: abdomen cupreum, basi cyaneo-viride: pedes fulvi; coxæ virides; femora viridia; meso- et metatarsi flavi, apice fusci; protarsi apice fusci; proalis nervi fusci.

Var. γ.—Nigro-viridis; antennæ piceæ; articulus 1^{us} niger, 2^{us} apice fulvus: abdomen nigro-cupreum: pedes nigro-virides; trochanteres fulvi; genua fulva; tibiæ piceæ, apice fulvæ; tarsi flavi, basi fulvi; protarsi fusci.

July; near London, Isle of Wight.

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I SHALL here record the very few particulars on this subject that have as yet become known to me. As may be conjectured, stormy

petrels (*Thalassidromæ*) were taken in many parts of the country; and chiefly during the latter part of the day of the 7th after the hurricane had ceased. At two o'clock, P.M. or just about its termination, one of these birds was picked up alive, but in a very exhausted state, in one of the streets of Belfast. On the 10th inst. two others, one of which I saw, and found to be the *T. pelagica*, were taken—the one alive, the other dead—beside a spring-well at Seymour Hill, about four miles from Belfast. Near Saintfield in the county of Down, distant about ten miles from this town, I have heard that a petrel was obtained after the hurricane.

Mr. Glennon, bird preserver, Dublin, states that a specimen sent him to be preserved was procured on the 7th in one of the streets of the town of Cavan, and that on the same day another was found at Brown Hall, county of Carlow. C. Carleton L'Estrange, Esq. informs me, that when out woodcock shooting in the plantations at Colonel Eniry's demesne some miles from the town of Cavan, about a week after the 7th of January, he found two petrels which had evidently been dead for a few days or from about the time of the hurricane; they were too much injured by exposure to the weather to be preserved. In the possession of my friend R. Ball, Esq. of Dublin, I have seen a *Thal. pelagica* which was sent him from Kells, county of Meath, where it was procured on the 7th—on the same day a petrel picked up near Mullingar, county of Westmeath, was sent to a gentleman of my acquaintance in Dublin; and on this day likewise I have been informed that one was found dead near the town of Wicklow. Of all these specimens I have seen but the two noticed as *T. pelagica*; of two or three others I could not obtain information sufficiently satisfactory to enable me to judge whether they were this or the fork-tailed species, *Thal. Bullockii*, but the remainder were described in such a manner as to leave no doubt on my mind as to their being the *T. pelagica*. Of the petrels which I have before seen and which were obtained at various times and places throughout Ireland, about as many were of the *T. Bullockii* as of the other, which is considered the more common species. There have been different conjectures as to the cause of the petrels' appearance on land, but in this instance when more of these birds were found scattered over the country than on any previous occasion immediately after the greatest hurricane that has within the memory of the oldest persons swept over Ireland, we are compelled to attribute their presence to its agency alone. From several of these birds having been found in the extreme east as well as the more central portion of Ireland, it would seem from the fact of the hurricane ranging

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from the north-west to the south-west, that some of them had been blown from the Atlantic*, almost entirely across the island, a circumstance which, strange as it may appear, is less singular than the occurrence of these birds on a more ordinary occasion in the very centre of England†.

Of the great northern diver (*Colymbus glacialis*), a species which naturally keeps far out from the shore, I saw a specimen in Dublin, that was shot in a dock at Ringsend near that city, after the subsidence of the hurricane.

In a letter from Viscount Cole, dated Hazelwood, Jan. 14, 1839, is the following passage—"I mention underneath a curious fact hardly to be believed, but which two decent men would testify by affidavit—that on the morning after the hurricane a great quantity of perch‡ fry were found thrown up high and dry two yards, and some more, on the grassy shore of Church Island in Lough Gill or Hazelwood Lake, in the county of Sligo." In a note with which I was subsequently favoured, Lord Cole remarked, that he had "heard" of several roach|| being thrown up on an island in Lough Earn on the night of the great storm. On the 24th of January, Robert Ball, Esq. wrote me from Dublin to the effect—that after the late hurricane the dead bodies of rooks§ to the amazing number of 33,000 (as a matter of curiosity the number was reckoned by some boys) were picked up on the shores of a lake some miles in extent and with extensive rookeries on its borders, in the county of Westmeath; and that in the same locality numbers of perch were thrown to some distance into the fields. The almost incredible mortality of rooks induced me to make further inquiry, when I was informed that Dean Vignolles (on whose property the circumstance occurred), states that the number of these birds above-mentioned were certainly destroyed. This gentleman likewise submitted to Mr. Ball's inspection a more than ordinarily strong panel of a new window shutter which was driven in and broken through by a rook dashing, or perhaps rather from being dashed against it on the night in

* At all times of the year they are met with off the western and northern coasts—they breed in a few of the islands, from Tory in the north, to the Skeligs in the south, inclusive.

† In the Magazine of Natural History for 1832, (p. 283.) two petrels are recorded to have been found dead at Birmingham in December 1831; one was discovered in a street of the town, the other at a few miles distance. The Rev. Mr. Bree of Allesly, who saw the former specimen in Weaver's Museum, has informed us that it is the Fork-tailed species, *T. Bullockii*—*loc. cit.* p. 733.

‡ *Perca fluviatilis*.

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Of the great northern diver (*Colymbus glacialis*), a species which naturally keeps far out from the shore, I saw a specimen in Dublin, that was shot in a dock at Ringsend near that city, after the subsidence of the hurricane.

In a letter from Viscount Cole, dated Hazelwood, Jan. 14, 1839, is the following passage—"I mention underneath a curious fact hardly to be believed, but which two decent men would testify by affidavit—that on the morning after the hurricane a great quantity of perch‡ fry were found thrown up high and dry two yards, and some more, on the grassy shore of Church Island in Lough Gill or Hazelwood Lake, in the county of Sligo." In a note with which I was subsequently favoured, Lord Cole remarked, that he had "heard" of several roach|| being thrown up on an island in Lough Earn on the night of the great storm. On the 24th of January, Robert Ball, Esq. wrote me from Dublin to the effect—that after the late hurricane the dead bodies of rooks§ to the amazing number of 33,000 (as a matter of curiosity the number was reckoned by some boys) were picked up on the shores of a lake some miles in extent and with extensive rookeries on its borders, in the county of Westmeath; and that in the same locality numbers of perch were thrown to some distance into the fields. The almost incredible mortality of rooks induced me to make further inquiry, when I was informed that Dean Vignolles (on whose property the circumstance occurred), states that the number of these birds above-mentioned were certainly destroyed. This gentleman likewise submitted to Mr. Ball's inspection a more than ordinarily strong panel of a new window shutter which was driven in and broken through by a rook dashing, or perhaps rather from being dashed against it on the night in

* At all times of the year they are met with off the western and northern coasts—they breed in a few of the islands, from Tory in the north, to the Skeligs in the south, inclusive.

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From a newspaper report of the devastation committed by the hurricane at Downhill, in the county of Londonderry, it appeared that a slab blown from the mausoleum, cut completely in two a poor hare that was sheltering beneath it. Thus far only have I heard of the effects of this terrific night upon the lower animals.

Belfast, March 5, 1839.

XXIII.—*On a Meteoric Paper which fell from the Sky in the year 1686 in Courland, composed of Confervæ and Infusoria.*
By Prof. EHRENBURG of Berlin*.

ON the 31st January 1687, a great mass of a paper-like black substance fell with a violent snow-storm from the atmosphere near the village of Rauden in Courland; it was seen to fall, and after dinner was found at places where the labourers at work had seen nothing similar before dinner. This meteoric substance, described completely and figured in 1686, 1688, was recently again considered by M. v. Grotthus, after a chemical analysis, to be a meteoric mass; but M. v. Berzelius, who also analysed it, could not discover the nickel said to be contained in it; and Von Grotthus then revoked his opinion. It is mentioned in Chladni's work on Meteors, and noticed as an aërophyte in Nees von Esenbeck's valuable Appendix to R. Brown's 'Botan. Schriften.' I examined this substance, some of which is contained in the Berlin Museum (also in Chladni's collection) microscopically. I found the whole to consist evidently of a compactly matted mass of *Conferva crispata*, traces of a *Nostoc*, and of about twenty-nine well-preserved species of

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